



The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association, July 27, 2025 Vol. 92, No. 3

President's Message: Since the last Circuit in March, we have had two stimulating presentations, two Zippitty-do-dog Ham Radio Gatherings (after 11 consecutive rainy Saturdays), officer nominations and elections, A joint meeting with the New England Sci-Tech (and other clubs) and Field Day. See photos. Thanks to Steve W1NIV and Joe N1JIW for their contributions to this newsletter. Please submit articles, notes of new equipment, and photos of your activities over the summer for the next Circuit. Many thanks to Richard KC1NXT for several years of keeping track of the minutes and for fulfilling other important duties of the Clerk – Secretary position. Best of luck to Bruce W1HNZ for taking this on. Thanks to Sumner W1VIV, Ron WO1E, and Steve N1MH for staying on as Director, VP and Treasurer/Webmaster respectively. Thanks to Glenn KC1HPZ for the behind the scenes work on the repeater, and to Andy – KC1DMM for the repeater testing and for keeping Echolink operating. Thanks also to Andy for arranging our access to the library room and to Andy and Steve N1MH for the AV / Zoom operations at the meetings. Thanks to Steve W1NIV for editing these newsletters. Thanks to all the rest for keeping this club moving

Club Activities Since Last Circuit.

- **March 25, 2025:** Joint meeting of local clubs at the New England Sci-Tech, see photos.
- **April 3, 2025:** FARA Meeting: Nels Anderson K1UR, presented Ham Radio Pickers.



- **May 1, 2025:** FARA Meeting. Max Kendall W0MXX, gave us a very interesting presentation on StratoScience: Amateur Radio and Youth Education to New Heights.



- **May 34, 2025:** New England QSO Party
- **June 5, 2025:** FARA Meeting.
 - Officer elections. Many thanks to Richard KC1NXT for several years of dedicated service as the club's Clerk - Secretary. Bruce W1HNZ, volunteered, was nominated and unanimously elected to the position.
 - Field Day planning. Decided to run W1FY as class 3 E station, meaning up to 3 simultaneously transmitting stations and E meaning home station not using commercial power. We ran from the home QTH of KB1VXY.
- **June 21, 2025:** Zippity Do Dog Hot Dog Gathering, see pictures.
- **June 28, 2025:** ARRL Field Day, see pictures.
- **July 19, 2025:** Zippitty-do-dog Hot Dog Gathering, see pictures.

Upcoming Meetings / Activities

- **August 2124, 2025** HamXposition <https://hamxposition.org/>
- **September 4, 2025:** DMR Update 2025 by Dom Mallozzi N1DM
- **October 2, 2025:** Will be on the history of technology, title to be determined, by Bruce W1HNZ

Submitted Articles

Recognition of a FARA Member in QST By Joe N1JIW



In the April issue of QST, Sumner Weisman W1VIV, our member and director was lauded for his home made key that he used on Straight Key Night. See pic on left.

June 2025 VHF Contest, by Steve Hewlett W1NIV

I participated in the ARRL June 2025 Contest in the FM Only category which has a limit of 100 W PEP on all bands in this category (50, 144, 222, 432, 902 MHz, and 1.2 GHz). The radios I used were Alinco DR06T (50 MHz) 50 Watts, Kenwood TR751A (144 MHz) 25 Watts, BTECH UV25X4 (222 MHz) 25 Watts, and Icom IC47A (432 MHz). All radios were cabled with LMR400 coax to individual omnidirectional antennas up 20 to 25 feet on four different masts in my back yard. The BTECH UV25X4 222 MHz radio was on loan from club member Glenn Ghidaleson WA2KRS and was much appreciated as my 222 MHz radio is an Icom IC3AT with high power of 2 watts using commercial power. The contest started on June 14th at 18:00 UTC and ended on June 16th at 02:59 UTC.

Across all four bands I made a total of 44 QSOs: 6M 9 QSOs (1 point each), 2M 19 QSOs (1 point each), 1.25M 6 QSOs (2 points each), and 70 Cm 10 QSOs (2 points each) for a total of 60 QSO points. I had 5 multipliers, one for each band plus one grid square on 50 MHz outside of FN42. My raw score is $60 \times 5 = 300$ points, hopefully all of which will pass the contest sponsor log checking. This is actually a pretty good score for the FM Only category. I spent 20 hours total operating during the contest. One of the keys to success is setting up schedules with other operators in advance of the contest. I worked the following FARA members via scheds during the contest: Sumner Weisman W1VIV, Steve Moro N1MH, Nels Anderson K1UR, Andy Boughton KC1DMM, Glenn Ghidaleson WA2KRS, and Steve Kondo K1STK.

Band openings, e.g. sporadic Es on 50 MHz and tropospheric ducting on 144 MHz, are much harder to take advantage of when operating FM mode than modes such as CW and SSB. This is due to the much greater bandwidth of the FM signal which decreases the intensity of the signal at a distant station. I did manage to complete a QSO with a North Carolina station in grid square FM15 which was my only contest QSO outside of my grid square of FN42. After the contest we exchanged QSL cards for that contest. Another interesting contact I made was with a young operator who was operating portable on Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham, MA using a 5 watt HT on 144 MHz. I had a lot of fun with this contest though was very tired by the time it ended.

Pictures

New England Sci-Tech Joint Meeting, March 25, 2025



Above from left: Sumner W1VIV, Ron WO1E, and Bob Phinney K5TEC (Founder and President of New England Sci-Tech)



Picture on left: room view at NE Sci-Tech

Picture on right: Barbara KC1KGS

Zippity Do Dog Hot Dog Gathering (June 21, 2025)



Picture on left: left front Jonathan W5GI, John KB1VXY, Eric WB1HBU, Nels K1UR, Jim WB4EJR

Picture on right: Table on left: Leandra AF1R in back at table on left, Table on right: Paul WA1WYZ left front, then clockwise, Barbara KC1KGS, Allison KB1GMX, Nels K1UR, Alex XYL of Paul



Picture on left: left front Steve K1STK, then clockwise Dave KC1UKL, Non-ham, non-ham, Stu W1SHS, Joe W1HAI

Picture on right: Left front Sumner W1VIV, Joe N1JIW, Steve N1MH, Ron WO1E, David K1MT, Bruce W1HNZ

ARRL FARA Field Day (June 28, 2025)

W1FY running 3 E (home station, no commercial power, 3 transmitters with VHF at QTH of KB1VXY



Picture on left: Bruce W1HNZ making recommendations, Andy KC1DMM holding onto antennas, Steve N1MH supervising. Picture on right: after modifications in placement of antenna.



Picture on left: Andy KC1DMM holding onto string going to two collinear dipoles to keep them away from trees.

Picture on right: John – KB1VXY checking for placement



The operators! Left: Sumner W1VIV, racking up CW points on 40 meters.

Center: Bruce W1HNZ also racking up CW points on 20 meters.

Right: Ron WO1E looks for opportunities to squeeze in some FT8.

Zippity Do Dog Hot Dog Ham Gathering, (July 19, 2025)



From left front clockwise, Jonathan W5GI, Steve N1MH, Charlie WA3ITR (President of WARS)



Picture on left: from left front clockwise John KB1VXY, Gregory AC1NY, Ron WO1E, Nels K1UR, Gene K1NR

Picture on right: From left front clockwise, Leandra AF1R, Paula XYL of Joe, Joe N1JIW, Dom N1DM, Sumner W1VIV, Jim KB1MCW



Picture on left: Barbara KC1KGS and Jim WB4EJR



Picture on right: on left: Greg WA1VIL, Don KB1OTQ in back, Ron WO1E on right



Group picture Back row from left: Don KB1OTQ, Greg WA1VIL, Greg AC1NY, Barbara KC1KGS, Jim WB4EJR, Leandra AF1R, Ron WO1E, Jim KB1MCW, Dom N1DM, Tom N1CPE, Stu W1SHS, Sumner W1VIV, Steve N1MH, Bruce W1HNZ, Joe N1JIW, Nels K1UR, Paula XYL of Joe N1JIW, Gene K1NR

Front: Standing Odette, XYL of Don KB1OTQ, Charlie WA3ITR kneeling, John KB1VXY sitting

Picture taken by LouAnn KC1EII, XYL of KB1VXY

Regular Meetings: FARA regular club meetings are held on Zoom on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, and some meetings will also be hybrid, usually at the McAuliffe branch of the Framingham Library. We take July and August off. Always check the webpage first. Members will get an email invitation before the meeting. **Members should be sure that they opted in for email notifications and that their email on record is accurate!** Nonmembers may request an invitation from president@w1fy.org.

Club Nets:

- FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, output frequency 147.15 / input frequency 147.75, **NOTE: PL tone is now 100.** Social/chat, emergency preparedness, amateur radio questions, Echolink enabled. W1FYR
- FARA Net: Wednesday 7:30 pm, Informal Check-in Net: Echolink enabled, W1FYR.
- Scanner listeners are invited to let us know you follow the nets by sending an email to contact@W1FY.org

Club Web Site: W1FY.org

Social Media:

- <https://www.facebook.com/FARAW1FY/>

Dues: Flat rate of \$20 per year per person or family, and no separate repeater fee. Paid members will be posted on the web page. You can join/renew/pay online at <http://w1fy.org/membershipform>

Testing: Exams on hold while city offices are unavailable. There are many testing options in the area, and we can help you find one.

Mail Address: Framingham Amateur Radio Association, P.O Box 5123, Framingham, MA 01701